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ABSTRACT

The reading interests and information needs of adult prisoners were investigated. Questionnaires were completed by 314 residents of three New Mexico prisons, 290 men and 24 women, representing 20% of the total male incarcerated population and 41% of the total female incarcerated population. Background information generally revealed that the prisoners tended to be young and criminally unsophisticated; and highly represented by Hispanic individuals, high school dropouts, and substance abusers. Results indicated that: (1) information about getting more schooling or job training was the primary need; (2) as a group, males expressed considerable concern for managing their lives more successfully; (3) as a group, women were less interested in all types of information and only considered understanding the law to be important; (4) more women than men wanted information on getting along with others; (5) for men, best sellers and adventure stories were preferred fiction subjects, and people and places were the preferred non-fiction subjects; and (6) for women, romances and adventure stories were preferred fiction subjects and prison/prisoner literature and humor were the preferred non-fiction subjects. (Author/HLM)

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INFORMATION NEEDS AND READING INTERESTS OF ADULT PRISONERS

a survey in New Mexico

Sandra Scott
New Mexico State Library
1979

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Eloy Sanchez, Statistician at the New Mexico State Library, spent many hours tabulating the results of this survey. Jane Kadlubek also provided statistical assistance.

Most of all, I would like to thank the 314 men and women in four adult correctional facilities who participated in this survey. The response rate was much higher than anticipated; and, as a group, respondents answered questions thoughtfully and seriously.

This report is written in the hope that people within the corrections system, and librarians on the outside, will consider the library and information needs of adult prisoners just as seriously.

Sandra Scott
New Mexico State Library
February, 1979

Question: What kinds of information do you need?

"Material essential to better living and college books related to college courses offered here"
-- male respondent

"How to develope your reading ability"
-- male respondent

"Psychological problems of readjustment towards the outside world--coping, expectations, etc."
-- male respondent

"Businesses, state agencies, and federal programs which help ex-offenders"
-- male respondent

"I read only to pass time the item above do not intress me"
-- female respondent

* * * * * * * * * * *

"You should for sure get the books of todays movies, all kinds, 9 times out of ten there better anyway"
-- female respondent

"I read mainly for pleasure & to take my mind off of prison"
-- male respondent

"I am not a book reader now, maby later"
-- male respondent

INTRODUCTION

At the time this survey was conducted, only one adult correctional facility in New Mexico provided library service to residents: the Men's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico, located on the outskirts of Santa Fe. In the preceding months, however, planning meetings had been held with staff of the Corrections Division's Central Office, and with administrators and staff of three adult facilities: Roswell Correctional Center, a minimum-security facility for men which opened in March, 1978; Camp Sierra Blanca, another minimum-security facility located in the town of Fort Stanton; and the Women's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico, located on the same grounds as the Men's Division. As a result of these meetings, all three facilities applied for Library Services and Construction Act grants, through the New Mexico State Library, to initiate library programs in 1978-79. The purpose of this survey, then, was to provide data necessary for the establishment of appropriate library collections and services, based upon the needs of the resident population, at those institutions initiating library service.

As a first step, the writer of this report studied surveys of prisoners' information needs and reading interests conducted in other states. Particularly influential was the inmate information needs survey conducted by Brenda Vogel.[1] Vogel's survey, however, reflects her role as Library Coordinator for a state

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[1] Vogel, Brenda. Final Report: Inmate Informational Needs Survey. Baltimore, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, 1976.

correctional system. Her report is concerned with a broad range of information needs not within the scope of the present survey--including information needs about prison rules and regulations, and information needs of prisoners concerning their legal status and cases. The scope of the survey conducted in New Mexico was determined by the writer's role as the state consultant to institution libraries, and the need to plan and establish relevant, general library collections for residents of correctional facilities.

After examining other surveys, the writer decided that a questionnaire would be used to gather data; conducting individual interviews with prisoners was not feasible. Efforts were made to design a questionnaire that would exhibit some built-in validity and would not be difficult to answer. Open-ended questions were kept to a minimum. Questions concerning library or bookmobile use were used to gain additional information about library and information needs, not to evaluate present levels of library service.[1] Two versions of the questionnaire were developed: one for the Men's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico, where library service had already been established; and the other for the three facilities initiating library service. Both questionnaires were reviewed and approved by the Central Office staff of the Corrections Division.[2]

With the assistance of correctional administrators and staff in four adult facilities, questionnaires were administered to, and completed by, a total of 314 residents: 290 men and 24 women.[3] These figures represent

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1 At the time the survey was conducted, Camp Sierra Blanca received bi-weekly bookmobile service, and Roswell Correctional Center had just begun receiving monthly bookmobile service, provided by the Southeastern Regional Library, a branch of the New Mexico State Library. The Women's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico was served weekly by the Santa Fe Public Library bookmobile.

2 Copies of questionnaires used are reproduced in Appendix B, p. iii-xii.

3 See Appendix C, Data Summaries, p. xiii-xiv.

20 percent of the total male population, and 41 percent of the total female population incarcerated at that time.[1] (Two adult facilities--the Los Lunas Correctional Center and the Women's Honor Unit in Albuquerque--were excluded from this survey. Since administrators had no immediate plans to develop libraries, it was considered unfair to raise any expectations of residents.)

Finally, an introduction to this survey would be incomplete without describing, in general terms, the population of adult prisoners in New Mexico:

* * * *The prison population in New Mexico is relatively young.* Sixty-six percent[2] of the men, and 61 percent of the women, are 30 years of age or younger (41 percent of the men, and 34 percent of the women, are 25 or younger).[3]

* * * *Minority groups are represented in larger numbers in state prisons than in the general population.* Fifty-six percent of the men, and 51 percent of the women, are of Hispanic origin, compared to 40 percent statewide. Eleven percent of the men and women in state prisons are Black, compared to 2 percent statewide. Although Anglos make up 50 percent of New Mexico's population, only 31 percent of the men, and 33 percent of the women incarcerated in state prisons are classified as Anglo.[4]

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1 On July 5, 1978, 1466 men, and 59 women, were incarcerated in state prisons.

2 Percentages have been rounded off to the nearest whole number.

3 See Appendix A, "Age of Inmate Population," p. i.

4 See Appendix A, "Ethnic Origin of Inmates," p. i. Statewide statistics are taken from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970.

* * * *Education levels of the prison population are lower than those of the general population in New Mexico.* Sixty-two percent of the women, and 59 percent of the men, have not completed high school, compared to 45 percent statewide.[1]

* * * *Criminally, the population is relatively unsophisticated.* Offenders are incarcerated in state prisons at a higher rate, and for less serious offenses, than in other Western states. Although the crime rate in New Mexico ranks from low to average in comparison with other Western states, New Mexico has the highest rate of commitments to state correctional facilities per population of any state west of the Mississippi.[2]

* * * *Large numbers of prisoners, both male and female, have histories of substance abuse.* It has been estimated that 86.3 percent of the men, and 92.7 percent of the women, have a prior history of drug abuse ("hard" drugs; "soft" drugs; other drugs; multiple drug use; alcohol.)[3]

These general characteristics of the prison population in New Mexico are important considerations in the context of this survey, and in planning library services and programs.

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1 See Appendix A, "Education of Inmates," p. ii. Statewide statistics are taken from the 1970 Census and apply to adults 25 years of age and older.

2 New Mexico Master Plan for Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Phase II Technical Report: Inmate Profile, August 1977, p. 14.

3 Ibid., p. 25.

SURVEY RESULTS

The 290 men in our survey group ranged in age from 17 to 60; the 24 women were from 19 to 40. The following tables indicate the age distribution and the percentage of the total within each age group:

AGE OF MALE RESPONDENTS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE[1] OF TOTAL
less than 21	27	9%
21 - 25	73	25%
26 - 30	78	27%
31 - 40	73	25%
41 and over	35	12%
no response	4	1%

AGE OF FEMALE RESPONDENTS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE[1] OF TOTAL
less than 21	3	12%
21 - 25	9	37%
26 - 30	4	17%
31 - 40	8	33%

Age distributions differed by facility. Seventy-seven percent of the respondents at the Penitentiary of New Mexico (Men's Division) and 72 percent at the Roswell Correctional Center were 30 years of age or younger. Only 7 percent of the respondents at Camp Sierra Blanca were 30 or younger; 44 percent were over 40.

Education levels among the survey group were diverse, ranging from respondents who had completed eighth grade, or less, to respondents who were college graduates. Educational backgrounds also varied by facility.

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[1] Percentages have been rounded off to the nearest whole number.

Fourteen percent of the respondents at the Roswell Correctional Center, and 12 percent of the men and women at the Penitentiary of New Mexico, had completed eighth grade or less in school. The percentage of respondents from the lowest educational group was much higher at Camp Sierra Blanca: 21 percent had completed eighth grade or less, and another 9 percent did not answer the question.

We studied the survey results as a whole, and then grouped respondents by educational level, by age, and by sex. We found distinct differences between male and female respondents: not only do the women have different reading interests; they also differ in their perceptions of information needs. The level of education achieved by a respondent, whether male or female, influenced reading interests and habits; previous library use on the outside; and, we can assume, expectations of library service. We did not find that the age of respondents was a decisive factor in respondents' reading interests or information needs.

In our survey group, 39 men and 3 women admitted having achieved eighth grade or less in school--amounting to 13 percent of the total survey group. We suspect, however, that this group is considerably larger: some 8 percent of the total group did not answer the question; and we have no way of verifying the accuracy of response to the question. Having completed eighth grade, or less, is commonly considered to be an indicator of functional illiteracy: adults in this group lack the literacy skills essential for personal success, whether in coping with daily survival needs, or in training for jobs. More and more, librarians are developing programs to address the needs of adults who need to develop their literacy skills.

This report, then, will discuss the information needs and reading interests of male respondents and of female respondents, and will compare the responses

of prisoners from the lowest educational group with those of the survey group as a whole.

INFORMATION NEEDS OF MALE PRISONERS

Eighty-nine percent of the survey group responded to the question, "What kinds of information do you need?"[1] Only 4 percent responded to all 11 information categories--an indication that respondents considered the question carefully.

At all three facilities, information about getting more schooling or training for jobs after being released from prison was the primary need: 59 percent of the survey group checked this category. More than half of the group indicated that understanding the law (56%) and a knowledge of community resources assisting ex-offenders (52%) were important needs. Slightly less than half needed information on money management (49%); self-help information on "how to get yourself together" (46%); and health information (45%). Forty percent of the survey group needed information on basic living skills for the outside.

About one-third of the group expressed the need for medical information about drugs and alcohol (35%) and information about finding, and keeping, jobs (32%).

As a group, male respondents expressed considerable concern for managing their lives more successfully. Respondents who listed "other" information needs on the questionnaire reemphasized, in general, the overall concern with schooling or training for jobs; assistance for ex-offenders on the outside, and self-development.

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[1] Complete data summaries for each facility begin on p. xv. The response rate to this question ranged from a low of 77% at Camp Sierra Blanca to a high of 96% at the Penitentiary of New Mexico.

INFORMATION NEEDS OF FEMALE PRISONERS

Fewer women responded to the same question about information needs. Twenty of the 24 women participating in the survey answered the question; only one woman, however, checked all 11 information categories.

As a group, women were less interested in almost all types of information. The only type of information considered to be a need by more than half of the group was understanding the law (58%). Exactly half of the group expressed an interest in information about schooling or training--the primary need of the male survey group. Information about assistance for ex-offenders (46%) and self-development information (46%) were generally as important to the women as to the men.

Apart from information on the law, the women checked only one other information category with more frequency than did the men: how to get along with other people. Thirty-eight percent of the female group checked this category, compared to thirty percent of the male group.

Particularly significant is the very low rate of response by women to three categories of information associated with independent living. One woman in four indicated a need for information about finding, and keeping, jobs. One in five indicated an interest in money management. And only one woman in eight expressed the need for living skills information, a category that includes consumer information.

The New Mexico Master Plan describes the "typical" female offender as a woman in her mid-twenties who provides the sole support for her children, and will need to resume this economic responsibility when released.[1] (Ninety percent of the women incarcerated in 1976 had dependent children, yet only

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[1] New Mexico Corrections Master Plan, 1977, p. 43-44.

31 percent were married at the time of their commitment.)[1] The Master Plan also stated that dependent, "victimlike" relationships with others, notably men, is a major cause of criminal behavior among women.

Women in our survey group showed little interest in developing skills associated with self-sufficiency and economic independence--skills that most women will need upon being released from prison, if they are to "make it" on the outside.

THE LOWEST EDUCATIONAL GROUP: INFORMATION NEEDS

Respondents who answered that they had completed eighth grade or less in school ranged in age from 18 to 49. Of the 42 people in this group, 16 were at the Men's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico; 13 were at the Roswell Correctional Center; 10 at Camp Sierra Blanca; and 3 were at the Women's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico.

Although 86 percent of this group responded to that part of the questionnaire concerning information needs, the group indicated much less interest in several different types of information than did either the male or the female survey group as a whole. There is no doubt, however, about their primary information need. More than half (52%) indicated that information about how to receive more schooling or training after being released was important to them. Without adequate literacy skills, however, schooling and training opportunities are severely restricted. We consider the need of this group to receive more education and training to be particularly significant in defining library service to prisoners.

Other information categories were of much less interest to this group.

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[1] New Mexico Master Plan for Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Phase II Technical Report: The Female Offender, January 1978, p. 18-19.

Thirty-six percent of the group expressed needs for information about community assistance; money management; and living skills for the outside. One out of three indicated information needs for understanding the law; finding, and keeping, jobs; and how to stay healthy.

READING INTERESTS OF MALE PRISONERS

The reading interests of the 290 men in our survey group--men of varied educational backgrounds, members of varied ethnic or cultural groups--reflected the diversity that can be found among groups of public library patrons on the outside.

Ninety-two percent of the survey group responded to the question, "What kinds of books do you like to read?" by checking categories of their choice. Contrary to a popular misconception that prisoners want to read only escapist fiction, the men in our group expressed just as much interest in non-fiction subjects as they did in fiction.

Fiction

As a group, more than half of the respondents chose best sellers (53%) and adventure stories (51%). Slightly less than half (46%) indicated that Westerns were popular reading fare.

One out of three chose mysteries or detective stories (34%) and classics (33%). Science fiction followed in the order of preference, with 29 percent of the group choosing this form of fiction.

Thrillers and romances, the least preferred types of fiction, were nevertheless a reading choice of more than one out of five respondents.

Of the 290 respondents, only 4 checked all fiction types on the questionnaire--an indication that the question was seriously considered.

Non-Fiction

Every non-fiction category in question 13 ("What kinds of books do you like to read?") was a choice of at least 22 percent of the survey group. The most popular non-fiction subjects were:

: *People and Places*: history; travel; biography (47%)

: *The Outdoors:* plants; animals; the environment (45%)

: *Humor* (41%)

: *Sports, Games, Sportsplayers* (40%)

One out of three respondents chose:

: *Beliefs:* religion; philosophy; the occult (36%)

: *Science and Technology* (34%)

: *Hobbies and Do-it-Yourself Projects* (34%)

: *Arts and Crafts* (32%)

: *Books about America*: politics; society; culture (32%)

Only two of the 290 respondents checked all non-fiction categories.

Responses Through Open-ended Questions

To receive further data about reading interests, we included the question, "When you last visited the library (or bookmobile) what kinds of books or information were you looking for?" At all three facilities, non-fiction subjects were listed more often than types of fiction. Subjects listed most frequently were history; self-help psychology materials; religion and philosophy; hobbies and sports; and arts and crafts. Among types of fiction listed, best sellers; Westerns; and adventure stories were mentioned most often.

To another open-ended question, some 38 percent of the survey group listed favorite authors and titles of books. Harold Robbins and Louis L'Amour were the definite favorites at the three male facilities. Data

summaries for the three facilities (Appendix C) demonstrate the wide range of reading interests and needs. At the Penitentiary of New Mexico, 106 different authors were listed by the group of 137 respondents. Favorite authors listed ranged from Aristotle to Pat Boone.

READING INTERESTS OF FEMALE PRISONERS

Every woman in the survey group answered the question, "What kinds of books do you like to read?" All 24 respondents checked some types of fiction; while 23 of the 24 respondents indicated non-fiction reading interests as well.

Fiction

Three out of four women in our group chose romances and adventure stories as reading preferences. Best sellers were popular with two-thirds of the survey group. At least half of the respondents indicated that they liked to read science fiction; mysteries or detective stories; or thrillers. Among this group, there was little interest in classics (29%) or Westerns (21%).

Non-Fiction

Non-fiction subjects chosen most often by women, as reading interests, were generally subjects of much less interest to the group of men we surveyed.

Two-thirds of the female group indicated that they liked to read about prisons and prisoners, a reading preference of only 28 percent of the male group. Humor was chosen by 58 percent of the women, compared to 41 percent of the men. Books about minorities was chosen by nearly

half of the women respondents (46%), while only 28 percent of the men expressed an interest in books about minorities. Beliefs; science and technology; poetry; and books in Spanish were also preferred by more women than men.

Responses Through Open-ended Questions

Seventeen of the 24 women replied to the question, "When you last visited the bookmobile, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?" Fiction was listed slightly more often than non-fiction. Favorite types of fiction were romances and mysteries. Philosophy and religion (particularly, astrology and the occult) and material about minorities were the favorite types of non-fiction.

Three out of four women in our survey group listed favorite authors or titles of books. These responses, listed on p. xxviii of Appendix C, generally reconfirm the reading interests described in the preceding section.

THE LOWEST EDUCATIONAL GROUP: READING INTERESTS

Only 6 of the 42 respondents from the lowest educational group did not reply to the question, "What kinds of books do you like to read?"

Respondents in this group were more likely to prefer fiction. Favorite types of fiction were Westerns (chosen by 48 percent of the group); adventure stories (40%) and best sellers (40%). One out of three people indicated that they liked to read mysteries or romances.

No category of non-fiction was a preferred reading choice by half, or more, of the group. Leading the list of preferences was sports (40%), followed by books about prisons or prisoners (38%); arts and crafts (38%);

hobbies and do-it-yourself projects (36%); people and places (36%); and the outdoors (33%).

Exactly half of the group answered the question, "When you last visited the library (or bookmobile) what kinds of books or information were you looking for?" Although the group did express reading interests and information needs, it is evident from the responses that many people were not book readers, and did not regard reading as a pleasurable activity. Only 19 percent of the group listed favorite authors or titles--a much lower rate of response than with either the male or the female group as a whole.

TYPES OF MATERIALS PREFERRED

Both male and female respondents, given the opportunity to choose what kinds of materials they would like to have in a library, indicated strong preferences for paperback books and magazines.

Magazines, in fact, were the overall choice of the survey group. Three out of four men surveyed (74%) indicated they would use magazines; at all three male facilities, more people chose magazines than any other type of material. Twenty-two of the 24 women chose magazines. Among the group of respondents who had completed eighth grade or less, magazines were far more popular than paperback books (57 percent of the group would use magazines, while only 40 percent would use paperbacks).

Paperback books were slightly less popular with the male survey group as a whole; two out of three male respondents (65%) indicated that they wanted paperbacks in a library. Paperbacks were more popular with the group of women (92 percent of the group chose paperbacks) and with men from higher educational backgrounds.

Newspapers were chosen by more than half the men (53%) and were the second choice, after magazines, of respondents from the lowest educational

group (43%). Women, however, showed little interest in newspapers. Only 7 of the 24 women surveyed wanted newspapers in a library.

One in every five men indicated a need for "large print books for easy reading." Slightly more women (25%) and respondents from the lowest educational group (26%) requested large print books.

Non-print materials were much less popular with the survey group, but it is probable that most respondents have not been introduced to audio-visual programming in libraries. Forty-two percent of both the male and female groups would use records and cassette tapes in a library. Fewer men (33%) and women (25%) would use slides and filmstrips. Games and puzzles were of more interest to the women (38%) than to the men (22%).

At all male facilities, respondents listed, as other types of materials wanted, reference or research materials; particularly, reference materials to support college courses. This need was greatest at the Penitentiary of New Mexico, where many of our respondents were enrolled in college courses.

The interest in magazines among groups of adult prisoners can also be gauged by the response to the question, "What magazines do you like to read?" Overall, 83 percent of the men, and all but one woman, listed specific titles or types of magazines preferred. (Some 81 percent of the respondent group with eighth grade education, or less, responded to this question, also.)

Individual responses to this question are recorded in the Data Summaries for each institution (Appendix C). Once again, reading interests and information needs among men and women, as seen by their magazine preferences, are distinctly different.

The 290 men surveyed demonstrated a wide range of needs and interests. (Sixty-four different magazine titles were listed by the group of 137 respondents at the Penitentiary of New Mexico.) News and current events

were the most popular types of magazines, with Time and Newsweek the favorite choices at all three facilities. Predictably, men in the survey group also favored magazines about sports and the outdoors; cars and motorcycles; and men's magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse.

The women in our survey group showed comparatively little interest in news magazines. Most magazine titles listed by respondents were those devoted to traditional female concerns. The group's interest in romances, noted in preceding sections, was reaffirmed by the listing of magazines such as True Romances and True Confessions.

LIBRARY USE: PAST AND PRESENT

Our questionnaire also attempted to ascertain past and present levels of library use. Judging from our responses, more than one-third of the men in our survey group (38%) have never used a library on the outside. One in four women have never used a library before being incarcerated. These figures may actually be considerably higher, given the human tendency to exaggerate the truth somewhat when faced with this type of question. When we look at the responses of those people who have not attended high school, it is not surprising that at least two out of three have never used a library on the outside.

A recent survey conducted by the Gallup Organization for the American Library Association[1] is a means of comparing library use on the outside with library use in prison. The report states that 48 percent of adult men, and 46 percent of adult women, have not visited the public library within

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[1] American Library Association. A Perspective on Libraries. Chicago, 1978. p. 7.

the past year. An adult who does not use the public library tends to be, among several other characteristics, a person with high school education or less, according to the report.

The overwhelming majority of prisoners have high school education or less--but prisoners do use libraries, at much higher rates than on the outside. One prison librarian estimates that a prison library is used ten times as heavily as its counterpart on the outside, serving approximately the same population.[1] Library use, of course, is heavier in those facilities that exist primarily for detention: a library in a maximum-security prison is likely to be used more than one in a minimum-security work release center.

At the Men's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico, 126 of the 137 men replied that they had used the prison library. (We do not, however, have a representative sample at this facility; all our respondents were students enrolled in college or adult basic education classes, or worked as clerks in the education department. This group would be more likely to be library users.) Eighty-one of the 137 men report that they use the library at least once a week. The demand for reading materials can be seen by the response to question 4.[2] One hundred eighteen men listed types of books they were looking for when they last visited the library. Only 43 found what they were looking for, but 108 people checked out books, anyway.

All the women in our survey group who had been incarcerated for more than six months had used the bookmobile. So had the majority of men

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1 Suvak, Daniel. "Library Service--Inside and Out." Ohio Library Association Bulletin, v. 43, Oct. 1973, p. 8-9.

2 See Appendix C, p. xv-xvi.

incarcerated for more than six months at Camp Sierra Blanca--a work release center where at least one in every four men lacked high school education.

READING HABITS

Another survey, recently published, allows us to compare the reading habits of men in prison with those of American men on the outside. Using a representative sample of American men aged 18 to 49, Louis Harris and Associates found that three out of 10 men (31%) reported reading no books, or just one or two, in the past year. An additional third of the group (33%) were relatively light readers, having read between three and 10 books in the preceding year. The survey also reports on reading and social class. In the socio-economic class that most prisoners would fall, nearly half (47%) read no books at all, or just one or two, in the past year.[1]

And how much are prisoners reading?

In our group of male prisoners, only nine percent reported that they do not read (another 5 percent did not answer the question). Well over half the group (57%) read between one and five books a month. An additional 29 percent read more than five books a month.

Women, judging from our survey, are the most avid readers of all. Only one woman reported that she did not read. Half of the group read between one and five books a month; almost half read more than five books a month.

Among the group of respondents with eighth grade education, or less, one person in five (21%) does not (or cannot) read; another 12 percent did not answer the question. Yet well over half of the people who have not

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1 Playboy Enterprises, Inc. The Playboy Report on American Men. Chicago, 1979. p. 55. The socio-economic class mentioned is "lower class," defined as men who did not complete high school and had an annual income in 1975 of under $10,000.

attended high school (57%) claim that they read one to five books a month. Even if this statistic is an exaggeration, it is nonetheless important as an indicator of the desire to read.

Many prisoners have sources other than the residents' library, or bookmobile service, for reading material. Almost two-thirds of the men we surveyed had other sources. Close to one in four men (23%) had their own magazine subscriptions; in general, they tended to be men with at least a high school education. Only one woman, however, had her own magazine subscription.

Prison society has its own circulation system. More than two of every five men (43%) get reading meterial from other residents. Women have less access to reading material; only 7 of the 24 women indicated that they receive books and magazines to read from other residents.

CONCLUSIONS

What, then, do prisoners need from libraries?

* * * *A well-balanced collection of paperback books, fiction and non-fiction.* Paperback books are overwhelmingly preferred to hardcovers by most residents. Purchasing paperbacks will also allow libraries to acquire many more titles. Selecting fiction should be based upon reading interests identified in this report. The selection of non-fiction materials should be based upon identified needs of the population for information, self-education, personal growth and recreation. Requests from the resident population, whether individually or through library advisory committees, should be given serious consideration.

* * * *A variety of magazine subscriptions, based upon the interests of residents.* Magazines are an invaluable source of current information for residents isolated from society; respondents in our survey group preferred magazines to any other type of library material. For prisoners with minimal reading skills, magazines may well be the only accessible form of print material.

* * * *Low reading level material for adults, including profusely illustrated books, on subjects of interest to the population.* Literacy levels are lower than in the general population outside.

Adult high interest/low reading level materials in the library can assist residents in acquiring literacy skills.

* * * *Newspapers of New Mexico communities.* Newspapers help residents keep in touch with activities in their communities, and are an important source of employment possibilities.

* * * *Reference materials, and materials to support rehabilitative programs.* Residents enrolled in adult basic education or college courses, in particular, need supplemental library resources.

* * * *Access to audio-visual materials, for self-education and recreation.* Non-print materials are particularly needed by residents with minimal reading skills.

* * * *Career information and job training requirements.* Above all other kinds of information, respondents in the survey indicated a need for information about schooling and training for occupations. Libraries in correctional facilities should feature a career center. In addition to containing material dealing with occupational choice, outlooks for the future and training requirements, a career center could also contain helpful materials about getting a job: how to read and use want ads; how to fill out application forms; how to interview successfully, and the like.

* * * *Survival skills materials.* The men in our survey group, in particular, demonstrated considerable interest in managing

their lives more successfully on the outside. All people need living skills information, such as how to manage money; how to shop wisely. Individuals who have been incarcerated also need information such as how to find a place to live; how to apply for a driver's licence, and so on.

* * * *Information about community resources and programs.* The majority of respondents in our survey group expressed the need for information about agencies and programs that could provide assistance for ex-offenders. Correctional librarians in other states have developed pre-release packets--names, addresses and summaries of services provided by community agencies, covering areas such as housing, employment, welfare, the law, and drug and alcohol programs.

* * * *Access to the state-wide inter-library loan system.* No library can fill, from its own collection, all the requests from its patrons. Inter-library loan is an important resource for filling requests for materials that are too specialized to merit purchasing. Residents involved in serious, on-going research, and those enrolled in college courses, need access to materials in the collections of larger public or academic libraries.

Finally, library service to prisoners depends upon the creativity of a special person--a librarian who, through a combination of professional skills and personal qualities, is able to initiate and direct library services for a unique clientele.

A P P E N D I C E S

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APPENDIX A - STATISTICAL SUMMARIES

AGE OF INMATE POPULATION[1]

	Male	Female
Under 21	103	3
21 - 25	497	17
26 - 30	365	16
31 - 40	357	21
41 and over	144	2
TOTALS:	1466	59

ETHNIC ORIGIN OF INMATES[2]

	Male	Female
American Indian/Alaskan Native	30	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Black	169	7
Hispanic	852	32
White	464	21
TOTALS:	1515	63

[1]As of July 5, 1978. Data provided by Corrections Division, Criminal Justice Department.

[2]As of June 30, 1978. Includes Federal and out-of-state prisoners incarcerated in New Mexico state prisons. Data provided by Corrections Division.

EDUCATION OF INMATES[1]

	Male	Female
Over four years college	8	0
Four years college	13	1
Three years college	23	0
Two years college	71	2
One year college	48	3
GED	74	0
12th grade	388	18
11th grade	229	10
10th grade	235	10
9th grade	175	11
Up to 8th grade	251	8
No education	0	0
TOTALS:	1515	63

[1]As of June 30, 1978. Includes Federal and out-of-state prisoners incarcerated in New Mexico state prisons. Data provided by Corrections Division.

Criminal Justice Department
CORRECTIONS DIVISION

Edwin T. Mahr, Director

May 24, 1978

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This survey of inmates' information needs/reading interests has been reviewed and approved by my office.

This survey will partially fulfill Federal requirements for planning library programs, and will be particularly useful in helping to build library collections at those adult facilities that are just starting libraries.

I would appreciate your cooperation in the administration of this survey.

Sincerely,

Edwin T. Mahr, Director
Corrections Division

ETM/ms

P.O. Box 2326 · Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 · (505) 827-2348

QUESTIONNAIRE USED AT PENITENTIARY OF NEW MEXICO (MEN'S DIVISION)

1. Background

(a) Age _____ (b) Sex _____

(c) What was the last grade of school you completed? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

completed 8th grade or less
completed some high school
completed high school
completed some college
completed college

2. When did you enter this facility? _____ / _____
Month Year

3. Since you've been here, have you ever used the library? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

If yes, how many times did you use the library last month? Or during an average month? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

3-5 times a week
once a week
twice a month
once a month
less than once a month

4. When you last visited the library, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?

_____

_____

_____

Did you find what you were looking for? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

Did you check out any books from the library? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

5. Have you taken any classes here, such as adult basic education or college courses? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

If yes, have you used the library for reading material to help you with your classes? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

6. Did you ever use a library on the outside? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

7. On the average, how often did you use a library on the outside? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

once a week
once a month
once or twice a year
never

8. What magazines do you like to read? _____

_____

_____

9. Do you get books or magazines from sources other than the library? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

If yes, how do you get things to read? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLIES)

own subscription through the mail
from other inmates
from visitors, family
other (SPECIFY) _____

10. On the average, how many books do you read in a month? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

0
1 - 5
6 - 10
more than 10

11. What types of materials would you like to have in a library?
(CIRCLE ALL THE TYPES YOU WOULD USE)

paperback books
books in large print for easy reading
magazines
newspapers
records and cassette tapes
slides and filmstrips
games and puzzles
other (SPECIFY) _____

12. What kinds of information do you need?
(CHECK THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU)

_____ Understanding the law

_____ How to find, get and keep a job

_____ How to get more schooling or training after release

_____ How to get along with your family

_____ How to get yourself together: understanding your emotions

_____ How to get along with other people

_____ Medical information about drugs and alcohol

_____ How to stay healthy

_____ Living skills for the outside: how to buy a car; rent a house, etc.

_____ How to manage money and stay out of debt

_____ Where to get help in the community after release

_____ Other (SPECIFY) _____

_____

13. What kinds of books do you like to read?
(CHECK THE TYPES THAT INTEREST YOU)

_____ FICTION
- _____ Best sellers
- _____ Classics
- _____ Westerns
- _____ Mysteries or detective stories
- _____ Thrillers
- _____ Science fiction
- _____ Romances
- _____ Adventure stories

_____ POETRY

_____ BELIEFS: Religion; philosophy; the occult

_____ UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

_____ PEOPLE AND PLACES: History; travel; biography

_____ BOOKS ABOUT AMERICA: Politics; society; culture

_____ BOOKS ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST

_____ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: how things work

_____ THE OUTDOORS: Plants; animals; the environment

_____ ARTS AND CRAFTS

_____ HOBBIES AND DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECTS

_____ SPORTS, GAMES, SPORTSPLAYERS

_____ PRISONS AND PRISONERS

_____ BOOKS BY AND ABOUT MINORITIES: Blacks, Hispanos, women

_____ BOOKS IN SPANISH

_____ HUMOR

_____ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

_____

14. List any authors or titles of books you especially like.

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

QUESTIONNAIRE USED AT: PNM (WOMEN'S DIVISION); CAMP SIERRA BLANCA; ROSWELL CORRECTIONAL CENTER

1. Background

(a) Age _____ (b) Sex _____

(c) What was the last grade of school you completed? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

completed 8th grade or less
completed some high school
completed high school
completed some college
completed college

2. When did you enter this facility? _____/_____
Month Year

3. Since you've been here, have you ever used the bookmobile? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

If yes, how often do you use the bookmobile? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

regularly--everytime it stops here
occasionally
seldom

4. When you last visited the bookmobile, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?

_____

_____

_____

Did you find what you were looking for? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

Did you check out any books from the bookmobile? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

5. Have you taken any classes here, such as adult basic education or college courses? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

If yes, have you used the bookmobile for reading material to help you with your classes? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

6. Did you ever use a library on the outside? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

7. On the average, how often did you use a library on the outside? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

once a week
once a month
once or twice a year
never

8. What magazines do you like to read?_____

_____

_____

9. Do you get books or magazines from sources other than the bookmobile? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

yes
no

If yes, how do you get things to read? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLIES)

own subscription through the mail
from other inmates
from visitors, family
other (SPECIFY)_____

10. On the average, how many books do you read in a month? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER)

0
1 - 5
6 - 10
more than 10

11. What types of materials would you like to have in a library?
(CIRCLE ALL THE TYPES YOU WOULD USE)

paperback books
books in large print for easy reading
magazines
newspapers
records and cassette tapes
slides and filmstrips
games and puzzles
other (SPECIFY) _____

12. What kinds of information do you need?
(CHECK THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU)

_____ Understanding the law

_____ How to find, get and keep a job

_____ How to get more schooling or training after release

_____ How to get along with your family

_____ How to get yourself together: understanding your emotions

_____ How to get along with other people

_____ Medical information about drugs and alcohol

_____ How to stay healthy

_____ Living skills for the outside: how to buy a car; rent a house, etc.

_____ How to manage money and stay out of debt

_____ Where to get help in the community after release

_____ Other (SPECIFY) _____

_____

13. What kinds of books do you like to read?
(CHECK THE TYPES THAT INTEREST YOU)

_____ FICTION
- _____ Best sellers
- _____ Classics
- _____ Westerns
- _____ Mysteries or detective stories
- _____ Thrillers
- _____ Science fiction
- _____ Romances
- _____ Adventure stories

_____ POETRY

_____ BELIEFS: Religion; philosophy; the occult

_____ UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

_____ PEOPLE AND PLACES: History; travel; biography

_____ BOOKS ABOUT AMERICA: Politics; society; culture

_____ BOOKS ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST

_____ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: how things work

_____ THE OUTDOORS: Plants; animals; the environment

_____ ARTS AND CRAFTS

_____ HOBBIES AND DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECTS

_____ SPORTS, GAMES, SPORTSPLAYERS

_____ PRISONS AND PRISONERS

_____ BOOKS BY AND ABOUT MINORITIES: Blacks, Hispanos, women

_____ BOOKS IN SPANISH

_____ HUMOR

_____ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

_____

14. List any authors or titles of books you especially like.

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX C DATA SUMMARIES

The following pages summarize responses to the information needs and reading interests questionnaire administered at the four adult correctional facilities. Responses have been tabulated by Eloy Sanchez, Statistician at the New Mexico State Library. In addition, responses to all open-ended questions, and questions in which residents had the opportunity to write in a response, have been compiled by the writer of this report. Every effort was made to decipher the writing and spelling of individual respondents. In only a few cases, responses could not be deciphered.

Question 2 has been deliberately omitted from these data summaries. Responses to this question have, however, been used in the text of the report, to indicate levels of library or bookmobile usage among residents confined for six months or more.

Questionnaires were administered to residents at the Roswell Correctional Center on June 20, 1978; at Camp Sierra Blanca on June 26, 1978; and at the Women's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico on June 27, 1978. At these facilities, case workers administered the questionnaire to residents. All residents were encouraged to participate, but were not coerced.

With the assistance of the Education Department, the writer of this report administered questionnaires to residents participating in college courses and adult basic education courses at the Men's Division of the Penitentiary of New Mexico on September 11, 1978.

The following table shows the total resident population on the date the questionnaire was administered, and indicates the rate of response:

FACILITY	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL RESPONSES	%age RESPONDENTS
Roswell Correctional Center	116	96	83%
Camp Sierra Blanca	62	57	92%
Women's Division, PNM	40	24	60%
Men's Division, PNM	1053	137	13% *

* On the day the questionnaire was administered, 96 men were enrolled in college courses, and 55 men were enrolled in adult basic education courses. The entire group did not have scheduled classes that day; virtually all residents who were in classes cooperated by filling out the questionnaire.

PENITENTIARY OF NEW MEXICO (MEN'S DIVISION)

137 respondents, male

1. AGE:

less than 21	22
21 - 25	42
26 - 30	41
31 - 40	25
41 +	6
no response	1

LAST GRADE OF SCHOOL COMPLETED:

8th grade or less	16
some high school	44
completed high school	15
some college	52
completed college	4
no response	6

* 3. *Since you've been here, have you ever used the library?*

yes	126
no	11

If yes, how many times did you use the library last month? Or during an average month?

3 - 5 times a week	35
once a week	46
twice a month	27
once a month	9
less than once a month	8
no response	12

4. *When you last visited the library, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?*

responses	118
no response	19

FICTION, LITERATURE

Current fiction	20
Westerns	13
Science fiction	9
Mysteries & detective stories	8
Adventure, action novels	6
Poetry and drama	6
Classics	2
Historical fiction	2
Love stories	2

---

* See explanation of question 2, page xiii.

4. (cont.)

NON-FICTION

History (ancient, world, American, Southwest)	21
Psychology, sociology	16
Philosophy (logic, metaphysics, ethics)	13
Religion (Western, Eastern)	13
Hobbies and sports	7
Music (theory and practice)	6
Arts and crafts (art history; how to draw)	5
Government, politics	5
Economics	4
Geography, travel	4
Mathematics	4
Occult	4
Automotives (cars, motorcycles)	3
Engineering (civil, mechanical)	3
Writing skills (improvement; reports and proposal writing)	3
Biography	2
Handwriting analysis	2
The outdoors (fishing; hunting; wildlife)	2
Vocational, trades	2
Arabic (elementary text)	1
Science	1
Shorthand	1
Solar energy	1
Spanish books	1
Non-fiction, not specified	2
Legal materials	10
Magazines and newspapers	7
Reference books for college courses (not specified)	7
Nothing in particular	5
Reference books (not specified)	2
Telephone, zip code directories	2
Sears catalog	1

Did you find what you were looking for?

yes	43
no	88
no response	6

Did you check out any books from the library?

yes	108
no	23
no response	7

5. *Have you taken any classes here, such as adult basic education or college courses?*

yes	116
no	9
no response	12

If yes, have you used the library for reading material to help you with your classes?

yes	76
no	44
no response	17

6. *Did you ever use a library on the outside?*

yes	99
no	27
no response	11

7. *On the average, how often did you use a library on the outside?*

once a week	34
once a month	35
once or twice a year	30
never	23
no response	15

8. *What magazines do you like to read?*

responses	125
no response	12

listed some specific titles	110
listed types, or subjects only	11
"all kinds"	3
not decipherable	1

TITLES LISTED, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

Atlantic Monthly	1	Forbes Magazine	1
Aubudon	1	Fortune	2
Bridge Magazine	1	Heavy Metal	2
Business Week	1	High Times	6
Car and Driver	3	Hot Rod	1
Crawdaddy	1	Human Behavior	2
Cycle World	2	Hustler	3
Dirt Bike	1	Jet	4
Easyriders	7	La Luz	4
Ebony	5	La Raza	1
El Grito	1	Latino	1
Esquire	4	Life	5
Essence	1	Mechanix Illustrated	3
Field & Stream	5	Motor Boating	1
Flying	1	Motor Cycle	1

8. (cont.)

Motor Trend	1
National Geographic	17
National Lampoon	3
National Wildlife	2
Natural History	2
New Times	3
New Yorker	4
Newsweek	47
Nuestro	3
Oui	2
Outdoor Life	7
Penthouse	33
People	19
Playboy	31
Popular Mechanics	7
Popular Photography	3
Popular Science	3
Psychology Today	10
Ramparts	1
Reader's Digest	6
Rolling Stone	6
Rosecrucian Digest	1
Sailing	2
Science	1
Scientific American	2
Smithsonian	4
Sports Afield	3
Sports Illustrated	11
Street Chopper	2
Time	68
Track & Field	1
True Detective	2
U.S. News & World Report	2
Wall St. Journal	1

In addition, types or subjects listed were:

Sports	13
Cars, motorcycles	10
Outdoors	4
Science & technology	4
Detective magazines	2
Health magazines	2
News (general, world)	2
Newspapers	2
Archeology magazines	1
Business magazines	1
Horror magazines	1
Law	1
Politics	1
Psychology	1
Religion	1

9. *Do you get books or magazines from sources other than the library?*

yes	95
no	30
no response	12

If yes, how do you get things to read?

own subscription	52
other inmates	69
visitors, family	7
other	11

"Other" included: purchase; from instructor; find; from chaplain

10. *On the average, how many books do you read in a month?*

0	5
1 - 5	88
6 - 10	26
more than 10	14
no response	4

11. *What types of materials would you like to have in a library?*

responses	132
no response	5

paperback books	86
large print books	30
magazines	109
newspapers	77
records and cassette tapes	69
slides and filmstrips	53
games and puzzles	34
all of the above	8
other	25

"Other" responses included the following:

current legal materials	8
more current books and magazines	8
material related to college courses	7
general reference material	4
more technical material	2
foreign language cassettes/books	1
listening/learning stations	1
videotaped plays	1

12. *What kinds of information do you need?*

responses	132
no response	5

understanding the law	88
jobs	49
schooling/training	96
getting along with your family	30
getting yourself together	74
getting along with other people	47
drugs/alcohol information	60
health information	66
living skills for the outside	65
managing money	78
community assistance	83
all of the above	12
other	22

12. (cont.)

"Other" responses included the following:

Information about trades, occupations, schools, licensing	4
Grants, scholarships	2
Information about government agencies	1
Information about programs to help ex-offenders	1
How to get legal help	1
How to get a parole	1
How to improve your reading ability	1
Assistance in using library	1
Material essential for better living	1
Repeated answers of #11, #13	9

13. *What kinds of books do you like to read?*

responses	132
no response	5

FICTION	122 responses
Best sellers	79
Classics	50
Westerns	60
Mysteries & detective stories	52
Thrillers	32
Science fiction	48
Romances	33
Adventure stories	81
all of the above	4
Poetry	51
Beliefs	61
Understanding yourself & others	44
People and places	75
Books about America	58
Books about the Southwest	33
Science & technology	60
Outdoors	78
Arts & crafts	44
Hobbies	53
Sports	60
Prisons & prisoners	54
Minorities	45
Books in Spanish	30
Humor	66
all of the above	2
other	8

13. (cont.)

"Other" responses included the following:

Engineering & drafting	3
Music composition, theory, practice	2
Welding	2
Archeology	1
Auto mechanics	1
Business materials	1
Current world problems	1
Drama	1
Mafia	1
Navigation	1
Sex books	1
UFO's	1

14. *List any authors or titles of books you particularly like.*

responses	68
no response	69

listed specific authors/titles	56
listed general subjects	7
"all kinds"	4

The following writers (or titles of their books) were listed:

Harold Robbins	19
Louis L'Amour	9
J.R.R. Tolkien	6
Ernest Hemingway	5
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin	4
Zane Grey	3
John Steinbeck	3
Richard Adams	2
Truman Capote	2
Arthur C. Clarke	2
William Faulkner	2
Alex Haley	2
Frank Herbert	2
John Jakes	2
John D. MacDonald	2
James Michener	2
Wilbur Smith	2
Leon Uris	2

The following writers were listed by an individual respondent:

James Allen	A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Rudolfo Anaya	Pat Boone
Aristotle	Richard Brautigan
Isaac Asimov	Pearl Buck
James Baldwin	Erskine Caldwell
William Peter Blatty	Carlos Castenada

14. (cont.)

Bernal Diaz de Castillo
Agatha Christie
Eldridge Cleaver
Aleister Crowley
Dante
Descartes
Arthur Conan Doyle
W.E. DuBois
Max Ehrlich
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Frederick Engels
Ian Fleming
Frederick Forsyth
Ghandi
William Golding
William Goldman
Joanne Greenberg
Martin A. Grove
Che Guevarra
Arthur Hailey
Robert A. Heinlein
Joseph Heller
Hermann Hesse
Homer
Aldous Huxley
Henry James
James Joyce
Carl Jung
D.H. Lawrence
Ursula Le Guin
C.S. Lewis
Hal Lindsay
Jack London
H.P. Lovecraft
Machiavelli
Mao Tse Tung
Alistair MacLean
Karl Marx
Michael Moorcock
Eugene Nelson
John O'Hara
Don Pendleton
Plato
Mario Puzo
Ni Sri Ram
Ayn Rand
Rosemary Rogers
Jack S. Scott
Sir Walter Scott
Karl Shapiro
Irwin Shaw
Robert Shaw
Shelley
B.F. Skinner
Socrates
Mickey Spillane
Stan Steiner
Mary Stewart
Jacqueline Sussan
Junichiro Tanizaki
Tennyson
Sabine R. Ulibarri
Erich von Daniken
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
Patricia Nell Warren
Frank Yerby

PENITENTIARY OF NEW MEXICO (WOMEN'S DIVISION)

24 respondents, female

1. AGE:

less than 21	3
21-25	9
26-30	4
31-40	8

LAST GRADE OF SCHOOL COMPLETED:

8th grade or less	3
some high school	6
completed high school	6
some college	4
completed college	1
no response	4

*3. *Since you've been here, have you ever used the bookmobile?*

yes	20
no	4

If yes, how often do you use the bookmobile?

regularly	10
occasionally	9
seldom	2
no response	3

4. *When you last visited the bookmobile, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?*

responses	17
no response	7

FICTION, LITERATURE

Romances	6
Mysteries	5
Poetry	2
Thrillers	2
Comedy	1
Horror stories	1
"True" stories	1
Westerns	1
Novels (not specified)	2

---

* See explanation of question 2, page xiii.

4. (cont.)

NON-FICTION

Philosophy	4
Minorities	3
Religion	2
Astrology	1
Mafia	1
Occult	1
Psychology	1
Sex	1
Women	1
Yoga	1
All kinds	1

Did you find what you were looking for?

yes	10
no	13
no response	1

Did you check out any books from the bookmobile?

yes	20
no	3
no response	1

5. *Have you taken any classes here, such as adult basic education or college courses?*

yes	15
no	9

If yes, have you used the bookmobile for reading material to help you with your classes?

yes	3
no	15
no response	6

6. *Did you ever use a library on the outside?*

yes	18
no	6

7. *On the average, how often did you use a library on the outside?*

once a week	6
once a month	7
once or twice a year	5
never	6

8. *What magazines do you like to read?*

responses	23
no response	1

listed some specific titles	21
listed types, or subjects only	1
doesn't matter ("all kinds")	1

Specific titles listed were:

Cosmopolitan	5	Ebony	2
Seventeen	5	Family Circle	2
Ms	4	McCalls	2
True Confessions	4	Newsweek	2
True Story	4	Playboy	2
Psychology Today	3	Time	2
Redbook	3	True Romances	2
Detective	2		

Listed by an individual respondent were:

Esquire	National Geographic
Glamour	Playgirl
Good Housekeeping	Popular Electronics
Life	Viva
Mad	Vogue
Modern Romances	Woman's Day

In addition, the following subjects were listed:

Archery	1
Model magazines	1
Outdoors; rock collecting	1

9. *Do you get books or magazines from sources other than the booknobile?*

yes	11
no	13

If yes, how do you get things to read?

own subscription through the mail	1
from other inmates	7
no response	13
other	3

All "other" responses were: Library in Men's Division.

10. *On the average, how many books do you read in a month?*

0	1
1 - 5	12
6 - 10	3
more than 10	8

11. *What types of materials would you like to have in a library?*

responses	24
no response	0

paperback books	21
large print books	5
magazines	21
newspapers	6
records & cassette tapes	9
slides & filmstrips	5
games & puzzles	8
all of the above	1
other	2

"Other" responses were:

Best sellers	1
Medical journals	1

12. *What kinds of information do you need?*

responses	20
no response	4

understanding the law	13
jobs	5
schooling/training	11
getting along with your family	3
getting yourself together	10
getting along with other people	8
drugs/alcohol information	4
health information	8
living skills for the outside	2
managing money	4
community assistance	10
all of the above	1

13. *What kinds of books do you like to read?*

responses	24
no response	0

FICTION — 24 responses

Best sellers	16
Classics	7
Westerns	5
Mysteries or detective stories	12
Thrillers	12
Science fiction	13
Romances	18
Adventure stories	18

Poetry	9
Beliefs	10
Understanding yourself and others	7
People and places	9
Books about America	7
Books about the Southwest	3
Science and technology	11
The outdoors	5
Arts and crafts	4
Hobbies	4
Sports	3
Prisons and prisoners	16
Minorities	11
Books in Spanish	9
Humor	14
Other	6

"Other" included the following:

Astrology	2
Indian biography and history	2
Sex	2
Black ghetto stories	1
Mafia	1
Plantation books	1

14. *List any authors or titles of books you especially like.*

responses	18
no response	6

The following writers (or titles of their books) were listed:

Virginia A. Armstrong	1
Eric Berne	1
Taylor Caldwell	4
Barbara Cartland	1
Agatha Christie	1
Kahil Gibran	2
Donald Goines	1
Linda Goodman	1
Robert A. Heinlein	1
Eric Hoffer	3
Eric Johnson	1
Erica Jong	1
Carl Jung	3
Sue Kaufman	1
James Kirkwood	2
Louis L'Amour	2
Hal Lindsay	1
Malcolm X	1
Masters & Johnson	1
James Michener	1
Elizabeth Norman	1
Edgar Allan Poe	1
Harold Robbins	2
Bertrand Russell	1
Frank G. Slaughter	1
Leon Uris	1
Alan Watts	1
Paul Zindel	1

CAMP SIERRA BLANCA

57 respondents, male

1. AGE:

26 - 30	4
31 - 40	28
41 +	25

LAST GRADE OF SCHOOL COMPLETED:

8th grade or less	12
some high school	12
completed high school	15
some college	12
completed college	1
no response	5

* 3. *Since you've been here, have you ever used the bookmobile?*

yes	30
no	25
no response	2

If yes, how many times did you use the bookmobile last month? Or during an average month?

regularly	16
occasionally	12
seldom	2
no response	25

4. *When you last visited the bookmobile, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?*

responses	31
no response	26

FICTION, LITERATURE

Westerns	6
Adventure novels	5
Humor	1
Mysteries	1
Science fiction	1
Fiction, not specified	4
Naked Lunch	1

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* See explanation of question 2, page xiii.

4. (cont.)

NON-FICTION

Arts & crafts	6
Southwest & Western history	4
Chicano materials	3
History (not specified)	3
Psychology, self-help	3
Sociology	2
Animal husbandry	1
Auto mechanics	1
Bridge instruction	1
Electronics	1
Mining material	1
Philosophy	1
Reading skills (improvement)	1
Sports	1
Wildlife	1
Info. on schools and grants	1
Non-fiction, not specified	1
"Good books"	3

Did you find what you were looking for?

yes	19
no	28
no response	10

Did you check out any books from the bookmobile?

yes	28
no	10
no response	19

5. *Have you taken any classes here, such as adult basic education or college courses?*

yes	4
no	44
no response	9

If yes, have you used the bookmobile for reading material to help you with your classes?

yes	2
no	23
no response	22

6. *Did you ever use a library on the outside?*

yes	27
no	19
no response	11

7. *On the average, how often did you use a library on the outside?*

once a week	7
once a month	12
once or twice a year	9
never	17
no response	12

8. *What magazines do you like to read?*

responses	39
no response	18
listed some specific titles	31
listed types, or subjects only	3
"all kinds"	5

TITLES LISTED, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

Adam	1	Newsweek	8
American Horseman	1	Nuestro	1
Bronze Thrills	1	Penthouse	4
Detective	1	People	1
Downbeat	1	Playboy	7
Easyriders	2	Popular Electronics	1
Ebony	3	Popular Mechanics	3
Esquire	1	Radio	1
Field & Stream	1	Ramparts	1
Hot Rod	1	Reader's Digest	3
Hustler	5	Ring	1
Jet	1	Road & Track	1
Jive	1	Rodeo News	1
La Luz	1	Saturday Review	1
Life	6	Sports Afield	1
Mother Earth News	2	Sports Illustrated	2
Motor	1	Time	8
Motor Trend	1	True Detective	1
National Geographic	2	Western Horseman	1

In addition, types of magazines listed were:

Men's magazines	2
Sports	2
Art magazines	1
Business	1
Psychology	1
Science fiction	1

9. *Do you get books or magazines from sources other than the bookmobile?*

yes	26
no	21
no response	10

9. (cont.)

If yes, how do you get things to read?

own subscription	5
other inmates	18
visitors, family	9

10. *On the average, how many books do you read in a month?*

0	8
1 - 5	26
6 - 10	8
more than 10	8
no response	7

11. *What types of materials would you like to have in a library?*

responses	46
no response	11
paperback books	32
large print books	7
magazines	34
newspapers	28
records and cassette tapes	16
slides and filmstrips	12
games and puzzles	6
other	2

"Other" responses included the following:

reference	1
repeated #13 need	1

12. *What kinds of information do you need?*

responses	44
no response	13
understanding the law	17
jobs	13
schooling/training	18
getting along with your family	17
getting yourself together	13
getting along with other people	12
drugs/alcohol information	13
health information	14
living skills for the outside	13
managing money	18
community assistance	20
other	5

12. (cont.)

"Other" responses included the following:

who to talk to in times of depression	1
coping with readjustment to outside world	1
how to be a father to my kids	1
helping young kids from making same mistake	1
how to get out of prison and off parole	1

13. *What kinds of books do you like to read?*

responses	50
no response	7

FICTION 48 responses

Best sellers	26
Classics	17
Westerns	27
Mysteries & detective stories	12
Thrillers	7
Science fiction	13
Romances	5
Adventure stories	26
Poetry	6
Beliefs	13
Understanding yourself & others	13
People and places	23
Books about America	11
Books about the Southwest	13
Science & technology	15
Outdoors	16
Arts & crafts	15
Hobbies	16
Sports	15
Prisons & prisoners	7
Minorities	15
Books in Spanish	13
Humor	17
other	5

"Other" responses included the following:

Auto, electrical, mechanical info.	1
Bridge instruction	1
Historical fiction	1
Mining, lost treasures	1
Reincarnation	1

14. *List any authors or titles of books you particularly like.*

responses	16
no response	41

The following writers (or titles of their books) were listed:

Elizabeth Ashley	1
William Burroughs	1
Erskine Caldwell	1
George R. Gilman	1
Zane Grey	1
Em Griffin	1
Arthur Hailey	1
Alex Haley	2
Robert A. Heinlein	1
Eric Hoffer	1
Abbie Hoffman	1
Kahil Gibran	1
Gloria Jahoda	1
Jack Kerouac	1
Louis L'Amour	2
John Mallon	1
James Michener	1
Terence Reese	1
Robert H. Rimmer	1
Harold Robbins	2
John Steinbeck	2
Rex Stout	1
J.R.R. Tolkien	1
Tennessee Williams	1
Frank Yerby	1

ROSWELL CORRECTIONAL CENTER

96 respondents, male

1. AGE:

less than 21	5
21 - 25	31
26 - 30	33
31 - 40	20
41 +	4
no response	3

LAST GRADE OF SCHOOL COMPLETED:

8th grade or less	13
some high school	28
completed high school	21
some college	23
completed college	1
no response	10

* 3. *Since you've been here, have you ever used the bookmobile?*

yes	34
no	62

* *

4. *When you last visited the bookmobile, what kinds of books or information were you looking for?*

responses	41
no response	55

FICTION, LITERATURE

Novels, best sellers	12
Westerns	8
Mysteries	4
Adventure	2
Drama	1
Love stories	1

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* See explanation of question 2, page xiii.

* * The second part of #3 has not been tabulated for this facility; at the time the questionnaire was administered, the bookmobile had made only one stop there.

4. (cont.)

NON-FICTION

History	4
Biography	3
Psychology, self-understanding	3
Auto mechanics	2
Books about the Old West	2
Books about the Southwest	2
Philosophy	2
Religion	2
Science	2
Art and lettering	1
Carpentry	1
Geography	1
IBM	1
Indian jewelry material	1
Law	1
Medical cases	1
Music	1
Sports	1
Non-fiction, not specified	1
Magazines	4
"Good books"	3
Spanish-language materials	3
Research (not specified)	1

Did you find what you were looking for?

yes	23
no	33
no response	40

Did you check out any books from the bookmobile?

yes	32
no	26
no response	38

5. *Have you taken any classes here, such as adult basic education or college courses?*

yes	6
no	77
no response	13

If yes, have you used the bookmobile for reading material to help you with your classes?

yes	3
no	81
no response	12

6. *Did you ever use a library on the outside?*

yes	55
no	29
no response	12

7. *On the average, how often did you use a library on the outside?*

once a week	17
once a month	26
once or twice a year	17
never	20
no response	16

8. *What magazines do you like to read?*

responses	76
no response	20
listed some specific titles	53
listed types, or subjects, only	19
"all kinds"	4

Specific titles listed, in alphabetical order:

Black Stars	1	New Yorker	1
Blood Horse	1	Newsweek	13
Car and Driver	2	Now	1
Cheri	1	Nuestro	1
Cruising World	1	Outdoor Life	2
Easyriders	5	Pacific Skipper	1
Ebony	3	Penthouse	7
Electronics World	1	People	4
Golf	1	Playboy	10
Golf Digest	1	Popular Mechanics	2
High Times	3	Popular Science	1
Hot Rod	2	Psychology Today	2
House and Garden	1	Radio Electronics	1
Hustler	3	Reader's Digest	3
Jet	4	Rolling Stone	4
Life	10	Scientific American	1
Look	1	Sports Illustrated	6
Mechanix Illustrated	1	Time	15
Mother Earth News	1	True Story	1
National Geographic	6	U.S. News & World Report	1
National Lampoon	1	Vogue	1
New Mexico Magazine	2	Watchtower	1
New York Times	1	Yachting World	1

8. (cont.)

In addition, types or subjects listed were:

Sports	18	Art	1
Western, cowboy magazines	7	Business	1
Newspapers	3	Christian magazines	1
Outdoors (Hunting; wildlife)	3	Comics	1
Auto magazines	2	Mechanics	1
Health	2	News	1
Photography	2	Pornography	1
Vocational/technical magazines	2	Prison magazines	1
Army magazines	1	Science magazines	1

9. *Do you get books or magazines from sources other than the bookmobile?*

yes	65
no	20
no response	11

If yes, how do you get things to read?

own subscription	11
other inmates	38
visitors, family	12
no response	50

10. *On the average, how many books do you read in a month?*

0	14
1 - 5	51
6 - 10	18
more than 10	9
no response	4

11. *What types of materials would you like to have in a library?*

responses	88
no response	8

paperback books	63
large print books	13
magazines	64
newspapers	42
records and cassette tapes	29
slides and filmstrips	23
games and puzzles	17
other	8

"Other" responses included the following:

educational, college materials	5
reference, encyclopedias	3
automobile manuals	1
8-track tapes	1

12. *What kind of information do you need?*

responses	82
no response	14
understanding the law	46
jobs	20
schooling/training	46
getting along with your family	9
getting yourself together	34
getting along with other people	17
drugs/alcohol information	16
health information	39
living skills for the outside	25
managing money	33
community assistance	35
other	5

"Other" responses including the following:

how to overcome shyness	1
repeated answers of #11, #13	4

13. *What kinds of books do you like to read?*

responses	84
no responses	12

FICTION: 76 responses

Best sellers	45
Classics	24
Westerns	41
Mysteries & detective stories	30
Thrillers	22
Science fiction	20
Romances	19
Adventure stories	37
Poetry	21
Beliefs	28
Understanding yourself & others	26
People and places	35
Books about America	23
Books about the Southwest	17
Science & technology	22
Outdoors	35
Arts & crafts	32
Hobbies	29
Sports	40
Prisons & prisoners	19
Minorities	20
Books in Spanish	19
Humor	34
other	5

13. (cont.)

"Other" responses included the following:

Real estate	1
UFO's	1
Slave novels	1
Repeated answers in #14	2

14. *List any authors or titles of books you particularly like.*

responses	26
no response	70
listed specific authors/titles	23
"any"	2
Life-Time	1

The following writers (or authors of their books) were listed:

Louis L'Amour	8
Harold Robbins	6
Carlos Castenada	2
John D. MacDonald	2
J.D. Salinger	2
John Steinbeck	2

The following writers were listed by an individual respondent:

William Peter Blatty	Hermann Hesse
William Brashler	Ray Hogan
Taylor Caldwell	H.W. Percival
Henri Charriere	Don Pendleton
Agatha Christie	William Samuel
Euripedes	Dr. Seuss
Max Franklin	William Shirer
Kahil Gibran	Sophocles
Alex Haley	Luke Short
Ernest Hemingway	Leo Tolstoy